2/16/88 A8912-1

SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 1988

Contact: David L. Yowell
or Sally Shank
(918) 493-3516

MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT (Month of January, 1988)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters showed a slight decrease for the first time in ten months. The land crew total decreased by five crews, but the marine crew total increased by three for a net decrease of two crews to a total of 197. The slight decrease is attributed to unusually frigid weather in the U.S. during the month of January.

The January total (197) represents a decrease of 1% from last month, **a 23% increase over January, 1987**, a 36% decrease from January, 1986, a 55% decrease from January, 1985, a 59% decrease from January, 1984, a 57% decrease from January, 1983, and a decrease of 72% from the same month in 1982.

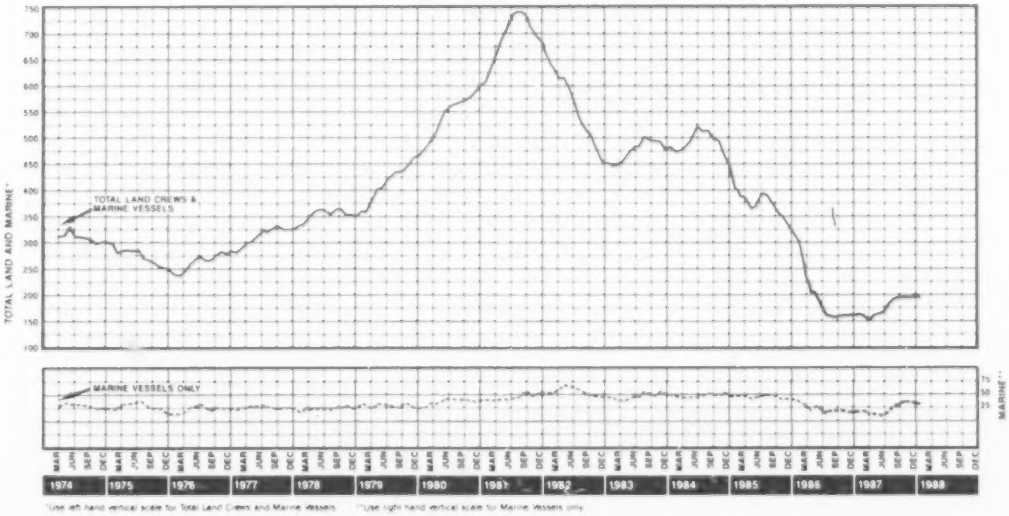
During January, one contractor was operating one of the 152 land crews and none of the twenty-six marine vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Jan.'87	Jan.'86	Jan.'85	Jan.'84	Jan. 83	Jan.'82
	197	199	160	310	439	477	456	695

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Jan. 1987	Jan. 1986	Jan. 1985	Jan. 1984	Jan. 1983	Jan. 1982	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Jan. 1987	Jan. 1986	Jan. 1985	Jan. 1984	Jan. 1983	Jan. 1982
43 Contr's:	152	157	126	240	358	390	365	599	26	24	15	34	39	42	42	46
8 Oil Co's:	15	15	16	31	35	37	42	43	4	3	3	5	7	8	7	7
1 Gov't:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	167	172	142	271	393	427	407	642	30	27	18	39	46	50	49	53

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels. **Use right hand vertical scale for Marine Vessels only.

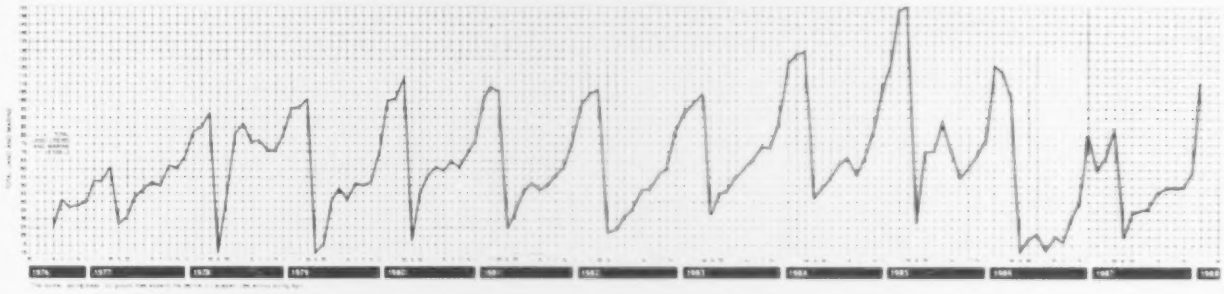
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

January, 1988 (December figures in parentheses)

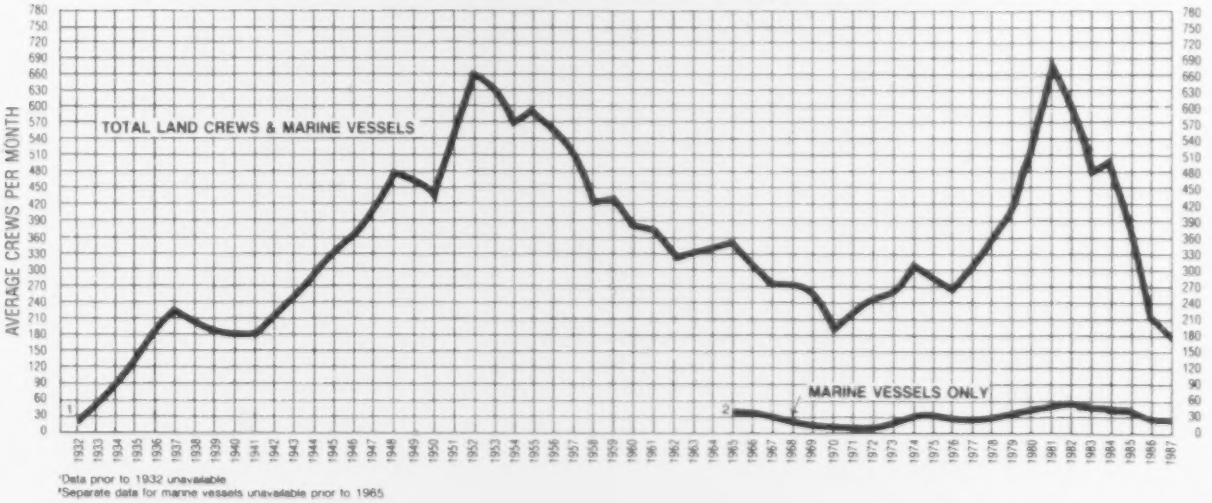
	Land Crews	Marine Crews
33 Contractors:	110 (62)	0 (0)
1 Oil Company:	2 (2)	0 (0)
Totals:	112 (64)	0 (0)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



[1]Data prior to 1932 unavailable
[2]Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965